

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 07062 020856Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-01

DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /076 W

----- 047705

R 020730Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9439

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 7062

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA, SA

SUBJECT: NAM VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA

BEGIN SUMMARY: NAM VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A QUALIFIED SUCCESS. (WE ARE UNABLE TO GIVE DETAILED READOUT BECAUSE NAM VICE-PRESIDENT HOLLIS VETOED PRESENCE OF EMBASSY OFFICERS DURING MEETINGS WITH SAG OFFICIALS.) ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, MISSION MEMBERS WERE OBVIOUSLY SERIOUS AND WELL PREPARED AND WERE GIVEN EXCELLENT RECEPTION BY SAG OFFICIALS. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE WERE THE POOR ORGANIZATION OF THE MISSION AND THE UNFORTUNATE CANCELLATION OF GROUP SOCIAL EVENTS IN JIDDA DUE TO THE DEATH OF FOREIGN MINISTER SAQQAF, WHICH GREATLY REDUCED THEIR EXPOSURE TO THE SAUDI BUSINESS COMMUNITY. HOPED FOR AUDIENCE WITH THE KING ALSO DID NOT MATERIALIZE.

END SUMMARY

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 07062 020856Z

1. WITH FORCED CANCELLATION OF BOTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LUNCHEON AND AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION, THE ONE-DAY JIDDA PROGRAM SHRUNK TO EMBASSY BRIEFINGS, MEETING WITH FOUR OFFICIALS OF JIDDA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AND PRIVATE APPOINTMENTS. IN RIYADH, SAG OFFICIALS WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY SHOW GROUP HOSPITALITY, STARTING WITH MEETING GROUP AT AIRPORT WITH RECEPTION DELEGATION HEADED BY PRESIDENT RIYADH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND DIRCTOR INDUSTRIAL STUDIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER. DURING TWO DAY STOP MINISTER OF COMMERCE HOSTED LUNCHEON ATTENDED BY SAG OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS C OF C. THAT EVENING CHAMBER HOSTED DINNER ATTENDED BY APPROXIMATELY 20 CHAMBER MEMBERS PLUS MINCOMMERCE OFFICIALS. DURING VISIT GROUP MET WITH MINISTER OF COMMERCE, DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF PETROMIN, PRESIDENT OF CPO, MINSTATE FOR FINANCE, AND VISITED RIYADH INDUSTRIAL ESTATE. HIGH POINT PROBABLY WAS PLENARY SESSION AT ISDC, ATTENDED BY MUHAMMAD AL-AWADI, MIN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY; MAHMOUD TAIBA, DEP MIN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY; AHMAD AL-TUWAIJRI, DG INDUSTRY; RIDA ABBAR, DS ISDC; ABD AL-AZIZ AL-ZAMIL, DEP DG ISDC; SOLIMAN SOLAIM, JOINT U.S./SAUDI ECON COMMISSION; KHALID AL-FAYEZ, SAUDI INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND, AND JWM JAWAN DEP DIRECTOR PETROMIN.

2. POOR ORGANIZATION OF MISSION WAS FELT FROM BEGINNING (PROBLEM WITH CIVIL AIR CLEARANCE) TO END (CANCELLATION OF NAM-HOSTED RECEPTION BECAUSE OF LAST-MINUTE CHANGE IN DEPARTURE TIME(WITH WHOLE SERIES OF OTHER HITCHES IN BETWEEN. MAJOR PROBLEM AREAS WERE: TOTAL LACK OF FOLLOW-UP ON INITIAL CONTACTS MADE BY ADVANCE MAN; UNCOORDINATED "PARTICIPATION"-- OR NON-PARTICIPATION-OF VARIOUS LOCAL AGENTS IN ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GROUP; AND LAST-MINUTE NOTIFICATION OF COMPOSITION OF MISSION. WE AGAIN RECEIVED USUAL COMPLAINTS FROM LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY THAT VISIT WAS TOO SHORT TO ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING. DESIRE OF NAM TO SHUT EMBASSY OUT OF MEETINGS WITH SAG OFFICIALS WAS MISGUIDED, AS ABSENCE OF EMBASSY ESCORT WAS INTERPRETED AS RELATIVE LACK OF USG ENDORSEMENT OF AND INTEREST IN MISSION.

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PAGE 03 JIDDA 07062 020856Z

3. EXPERIENCE OF MID-AMERICA AND NAM MISSIONS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES THAT IN THE FUTURE IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT SUCH GROUPS BE PRECDEDE BY AT LEAST THREE DAYS BY SOMEONE TO FINALIZE ARRANGEMENTS INITIATED BY ORIGINAL ADVANCE MAN.

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